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# letters

## HOMELESSNESS NEEDS A REAL SOLUTION

The article "Swept Out of Sight" (EW 6/17) misses the main point of Eugene's unhoused problem. The city is confronted daily by a huge itinerant population. What the article misses and Eugene leadership misses are the issues that need to be solved to end the moving around of campers. Our community deserves to use its public lands set aside for everyone, its sidewalks, its parks and playgrounds for children.

A system needs to be implemented to end the unhoused crisis. A means to integrate people into the community. Maybe it's simply defining an area for campers. It could be managed by those who live there. Accountability can and should be part of the plan. A plan will require more social interaction by shelters, increased outreach to campers, establish places for people to camp and case workers to systematically handle people who are in crisis and related mental health issues.

A plan will likely require more social workers, more volunteers and a more systematic approach to the issue rather than a reaction to what is repugnant to most. People need to rally to fund a so-

lution. It's wrong for police trained for criminal activity to have to respond to campers being moved again and again because we have no other solutions. CAHOOTS is an incredible model that might expand its purpose.

Eugene needs to dedicate focused human resources with solid funding to analyse and address critical issues of itinerant lifestyles, then implement a plan. Don't take years to do this, it should have been done long ago.

Linda Yellin  
Cottage Grove

## ARGUABLY BEAUTIFUL ARGUMENT

I really enjoyed Ester Barkai's review of *Creativity Counts* (EW 6/24). But this is a college town, and I teach college students, and I'm about to be pedantic on something I think is important. Please take it in the spirit of generosity. Here goes.

Barkai said, "The discussion and illustration of practicality versus creativity is not dogmatic or argumentative, but rather fluid and thought provoking." But "argumentative" is not the opposite of "thought provoking." ("Dogmatic" clearly is. Good word, there.)

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Arguments done well provoke thought. Powerful arguments are life-changing. Do a Google search for "Dominic Infante" and see what he said about the difference between argumentativeness and verbal aggression. Argument is not bickering; arguments are not shouting matches. Argument is beautiful and powerful.

I would ordinarily let this go lightly, but we are in a chapter of history where "argument" is a dirty word, and anyone who disagrees is signaling membership in an enemy tribe. One measure I've pegged is that the fever has broken and the insanity is fading like the pandemic is that we stop treating "argument" like a red flag.

Again, good review, and I hope to make it down to the Jordan Schnitzer to see the exhibit. But don't shy away from arguments; they're among the very best things you can do with your mouth and your brain. I wish more voters for the opposing party would argue with me. I can always use more thoughtful friends.

*Doyle Sradar  
Eugene*

*Barkai responds: I'm going to have to go ahead and agree with you about my use of the word "argumentative"! I was thinking of it in the sense of opposition, and argument in academic practice is more aligned with logic based on reasoning. Thanks for making your argument. Well done!*

## RESTAURANT DIVERSITY ALREADY EXISTS

In the Chow issue (6/24), Yardy Eugene owner Isaiah Martinez plays the race card to highlight his challenges: "the unequal value held to foods of different cultures." Has he not noticed the Korean, Japanese, Thai, Latin American, Lebanese etc. restaurants in town? The best in fine dining in Eugene are businesses owned by people of color and serve other than European foods.

Martinez doesn't help his call for diversity of foods by acting like it doesn't exist or that there is some social effort to restrict Black/brown cooking. Diners go out to enjoy great food; they don't ask about race. Maybe your cooking style only appeals to a small audience.

*Don French  
Eugene*

## SUPPORT SEX WORKERS

My name is Katherine.

In partnership with the Oregon Sex Workers Human Rights Commission ([OregonSexWorkers.com](http://OregonSexWorkers.com)) and in preparation for a July 15 event, Decriminalization of Sex Work, I am writing to ask for the support of the readers and the support of our lawmakers.

I'm a Portland dominatrix.  
And I love my job.

Unfortunately, because of criminalization, sex workers experience an increased risk of violence from clients,

law enforcement, abusive partners and fanatics. We need to decriminalize.

I understand that issues around sex and sexuality, consent and nonconsent are very uncomfortable for some, but the Oregon Health Authority states that sexual health is "fundamental to the overall health and well-being of individuals, couples and families, and to the social and economic development of communities and countries."

Issues around sex are best addressed through education and freedom of expression. Not marginalization and silencing.

Organizations such as Sex Positive Portland, the National Coalition of Sexual Freedom and The Alternative Sexualities Health Research Alliance have a vast network of tools and resources — academic and practical — and have been working to this end for many years to educate and empower around issues of sexuality.

I ask for your support us in our efforts to decriminalize sex work, and I ask for the support of our lawmakers as well.

*Katherine Dire  
Beaverton*

## CRT IS NOT ABOUT EQUITY

The 6/24 *Slant* in the paragraph about the late Derrick Bell, we're told that, aside from academics, "it seems unlikely that (people) have any idea what this (Critical Race) theory is."

You're very wrong about that. Have you been following the backlash against CRT nationwide? Have you been following the CRT controversy in Springfield?

In rapidly growing numbers, people are learning very well what "this theory" is. It is flagrantly racist, divisive and was aptly characterized by *National Review* writer Deroy Murdock, a Black man, as "The Democratic-left's filthiest, ugliest big lie. It defines America as inherently and irredeemably bigoted, denounces all whites as racial oppressors and diminishes all Blacks as racially oppressed victims. Lies, lies, lies."

And this from Oregonians for Liberty in Education: "Under the guise of benign-sounding objectives such as diversity and equity, propaganda packaged as history is being presented... Teachers across Oregon are being told to frame all of Oregon and U.S. history through an oppressed/oppressor racial lens. It's divisive and factually inaccurate."

This is the garbage being crammed down our children's throats in at least some of our area schools. The schools deny this, claiming that what they're teaching is "equity" or "social justice." Call it whatever they want — it's still CRT.

From a Crosby, Stills & Nash song, "Teach your children well." Our schools are doing just the opposite with CRT. Parents: Be aware and be on guard.

*Jerry Ritter  
Springfield*

# Remembering Summer

DITCH THE GAS POWERED YARD TOOLS TO SAVE SILENCE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Remember when summer

Was sunshine and crickets?

Kids in the street

And fences in pickets?

Today many days

Are powered by tools

We'd rather be lounging

With picnics at pools.

Hackers and whackers

And trimmers and mowers

Loudest of all

Are gas-powered blowers.

They blow blades of grass,

A handful of leaves,

A big cloud of dust

Like you wouldn't believe.

In an hour, it's back,

The dust and the leaves

That need nothing more

Than the tiniest breeze.

Thirty minutes of blowing

Is worse than a truck

Monoxide and benzene

From dawn until dusk.

Exhaust that comes out

From the tank and the tube

Is bad for your neighbor

And so bad for you.

Summer's upon us

The best season of all

Blue skies and a breeze

Perfection til fall.

Can we think of a way

To get the job done?

If you need it, electric,

But a broom is more fun!

within a couple years.

Leafblowers push up to 700 cubic feet of air per minute at up to 200 mph, stirring up fine-particle hurricanes that include pollen, mold, animal feces, heavy metals, herbicides and pesticides, causing damage to the respiratory system. Where does the dust go that the landscaper blows off a driveway and across the street? The homeowner's dust is now everyone's dust. It's like someone smoking in your kitchen, and you can't get away.

Gas blower noise is so loud it jars the mind and makes your teeth rattle, launching you in search of quiet that can't be found. The noise is not only obnoxious, but it's also harmful to our health and a quick cause of hearing loss to users. Blower noise can be heard five blocks away, even farther when it carries across a canyon. Blowers tend to ruin a summer evening. Or morning.

In my neighborhood, four gas-powered tools fire up at 7:30 am on Tuesday. Another four at 6:30 pm on Wednesday. Four houses away, a team comes every Friday morning, another up the hill Friday afternoon, and another, long and loud, comes four houses the other direction on random days. By February, the landscape service, in search of a good reason for the weekly visit, continues to fire up two gas blowers — one to blow a leaf up the driveway and one to blow water down. Thirty minutes later, blowers and mowers pack up and drive away. Sixty minutes later, the wind picks up and returns the leaf to the driveway. Next morning, a gentle rain leaves more water.

Homeowners believe the landscaper insists upon a gas blower, mower or weed whacker. The landscaper believes the homeowner insists upon the same. Maybe not. Maybe an alternative is possible.

Many city dwellers have tiny yards, with an occasional need for heavy-duty tools. What did we do before the advent of noise- and air-polluting blowers and whackers? We hired three strong men to help maintain the yard. Today, three strong men or women could be as speedy with a rake, broom or push mower as they were in 1980.

Remember the sweet sounds of summer? Blue skies and clean air? A powered-up blowing blower takes up airspace and absorbs the sweet sounds. We all share the same space — can we consider alternatives? Eugene's ambitious Climate Action Plan seeks to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and create livable neighborhoods. Gas-powered tool limits — one way to improve the quality of life we seek.

*Brenda Kame'enui is a retired reading teacher with Sisters in Search of Silent Summer (SISSS).*



# Lane County and Critical Race Theory

WEIGHING THE IDEA OF RACE IN K-12 EDUCATION

By Anna Mattson

**M**ore than 20 white community members gathered at the Springfield Public School Administration building late afternoon on June 23. "Made in America" by Toby Keith blasted on a Bluetooth speaker nearby, and protesters sported 'Make America Great Again' apparel. A van at the event had "stop racist training" written on its side.

The gathering was in protest of 4th grade Thurston Elementary School teacher Curtis Crosswhite allegedly being put on a two-day academic leave for sharing an email against critical race theory to fellow employees. The district was unable to confirm this happened as of press time.

According to a local teacher, what's actually taught in Springfield classrooms is different from critical race theory in many ways.

Critical race theory recently resurfaced in March in response to the public outcry over George Floyd's murder. Many right-wing protesters nationwide are now pushing to ban critical race theory in K-12 education. Critical race theory is an academic concept that says racism in America is systemic in culture and politics. One of the most influential creators of the concept, the late Derrick Albert Bell Jr., was the first Black dean of the University of Oregon School of Law.

Kelly Mason, incoming member of the Springfield Board of Education as of July 1, says that although there has been pushback from parents telling teachers to focus education solely on subjects like math, reading and science, she thinks that public school is also largely about social connections.

"If a Black child is old enough to experience racism, then a white child or student is old enough to learn about it," Mason says.

Many of the protesters' concerns about critical race theory, according to Mason, were born out of misinformation on what the idea really means. As an official member of the school board, she plans to push more conversations about public concerns and clarify misinformation.

The email that Crosswhite allegedly shared to staff includes several statements about keeping socialism out of schools and refers to critical race theory being as big of an attack on the U.S. as Pearl Harbor. It references the fictional docudrama film *The Social Dilemma* as a way to highlight biased media outlets.

Today, educators strive to teach the concept of race in classrooms. However, the material taught in K-12 deviates from the university-level topics that critical race theory typically covers. Devan Fahsholz, a teacher for Eugene International High

School at South Eugene High School, says that he does not teach critical race theory. However, he says that he certainly does teach about race and racism.

Fahsholz teaches language arts and social studies. His curriculum is integrated with other teachers in different disciplines, and he focuses on teaching students about literature in different parts of the world.

"Because I teach literature, I'm always making references to social studies in history and themes oftentimes related to race or inequality," he says. "We don't have a race curriculum like the ones that have been referenced in the news."

Fahsholz says that the curriculum has been well-received by students, and that they typically want more of the material. He prioritizes the basic teaching of truth behind race and the idea of privilege. Part of the reason race is important in education, according to Fahsholz, is to empower students for informed decision-making.

"I don't really have to worry about telling the truth," he says. "We kind of focus on this idea of not feeling guilty, but taking action to make the world better."

But on June 14, parents and community members submitted public comments to

the Springfield School Board meeting, shaming and criticizing – and misunderstanding – the idea of critical race theory in education. Community members wrote comments claiming that the country is not systemically racist, or that critical race theory seeks to dismantle capitalism.

"Teaching CRT not only divides the children but will cause children to hate themselves which could lead to suicide," Springfield resident Matthew Carter wrote.

One comment written by Amanda Crosswhite, had exactly the same content as the email that her husband Curtis sent to staff and faculty at Thurston Elementary School.

"Critical race theory is the biggest attack on the United States of America since Pearl Harbor," Amanda Crosswhite wrote.

Mason says that, as a board member, she plans to create pathways for students with disabilities and students with diverse ethnic or racial backgrounds. She says she hopes to increase accessibility for Spanish speaking families in Springfield. Regarding the conversations around critical race theory, Mason says she supports race-based conversations in the classroom.

"Hopefully we can provide clarity, and in doing so, educate ourselves. As board members, as public servants who serve at the pleasure of our community, it's our job," she says. "We were elected to represent this community to be informed and make decisions that would be in the best interest of students." ▀



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# Can Do Spirit

**CLAIM 52 IS RAISING MONEY TO SUPPORT MCKENZIE RIVER WATERSHED RECOVERY**

*By Henry Houston*

**T**he McKenzie River is Eugene's only water source. Without it, the area's breweries would be missing a vital ingredient to their beverages. Claim 52 is creating a special beer that supports McKenzie River Trust's efforts to restore the McKenzie River after the Holiday Farm Fire. The brewery is sharing the recipe with other breweries in town and hoping the fundraiser spreads to other breweries around Oregon — and beyond — who'd use the money for restoring their respective watersheds.

"The threat to water quality is a call to action," says Claim 52 co-owner Jeannine Parisi, who also works at Eugene Water and Electric Board. "When you lose 170,000 acres of prime watershed to fire, it calls into question what we are going to do to make sure our habitat and watershed is healthy."

The Holiday Farm Fire damaged 25 percent of the McKenzie's watershed, says Brandi Ferguson, McKenzie

River Trust's associate director of philanthropy and McKenzie community liaison.

Claim 52's limited release beer is called Groundswell, which is a Northwest pale ale, Parisi says, meaning the malt is grown locally. The recipe is meant to be as crisp as the McKenzie River, she adds. The beer's clean profile is a way to showcase the good water from the river. "It's a good reminder to save our water," she says.

Parisi says the idea for the campaign has been in the works for the past few months. The brewery felt the campaign was imperative because, like everyone else, it's dependent on the McKenzie River since it's Eugene's only water source. And the beer's can will honor the symbol of the river: the Belknap Covered Bridge. The brewery will donate all of the proceeds from Groundswell to McKenzie River Trust.

"What we like about the trust is they've got a great reputation and credibility with community and name recognition," Parisi says. She refers to the group's large-scale restoration efforts on the McKenzie River, which gives it a "green infrastructure." That helps the water get cleaned in a natural way before flowing down to Eugene residents' faucets and beer.

Although the Claim 52 fundraiser will go toward the greatest need for McKenzie River-related efforts, Ferguson says one way the money will help the nonprofit is through volunteer coordination, such as helping the Friends of Finn Rock Reach group. She says many of the volunteers in that group come from Blue River and are involved with planting trees, weeding and, more recently, cleaning up an old logging site.

"Whether we live upriver, midriver or downriver, this river connects us all," Ferguson says. "It's always taken care of us, and it's our turn as a community to really step up and help to care for it."



In 2020, Claim 52 participated in the Black Is Beautiful campaign, a fundraiser started by a Texas brewery during the Black Lives Matter-related protests. Claim 52 raised a total of \$8,100, according to Parisi, and they donated \$5,000 to the Eugene/Springfield NAACP and \$3,100 to former San Francisco 49ers quarterback-turned-activist Colin Kaepernick's Know Your Rights Camp.

Claim 52 plans to have the beer available for sale in July. And Parisi says that so far Oakshire has expressed interest in participating in the fundraiser, and she hopes the campaign becomes popular with other breweries.

"When you go up there, you can feel helpless," she says of the McKenzie River area. "Every person can do just a little bit. It's an accessible way to contribute. If we all buy a couple of beers, sending those funds up to the trust or other like minded groups can make a difference."

*Visit [Claim52Brewing.com](http://Claim52Brewing.com) to stay updated on when Groundswell goes on sale.*

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# When the ‘Patriots’ Come Marching In

PERMIT OR NOT, RIGHT-WING EXTREMISTS ARE PLANNING TO HOLD AN INDEPENDENCE DAY EVENT IN CRESWELL

By Taylor Perse

**O**n paper, this year’s Fourth of July parade planned for Creswell looks like a normal event put on by community members. It is advertised as a family friendly experience involving floats, a car parade and flag waving.

But local alt-right extremists and a Eugene restaurant owner are the ones planning this celebration, creating their own event after it was announced the Creswell Chamber of Commerce wasn’t putting on the popular annual parade due to COVID-19. The right-wing groups do not have a parade permit and have received pushback from some residents, but they are still moving forward with their celebration.

Much of the local concern for the event follows a Nov. 1, 2020, Black Lives Matter rally held in downtown Creswell, which ended in violence after a miles-long caravan of Trump supporters arrived with American flags and guns to counter-protest. The Trump supporters began yelling at the BLM rally attendees and shoved the group with their flagpoles, pushing them out of downtown.

“They’ve made my argument for me that the people that came in November are coming back, empowered and emboldened,” says Martha McReynolds Jr., a Creswell resident and former city councilor. She adds that some of the organizers from the November counterprotest are involved in the Fourth of July activities.

The July 4 parade is marketed as the “largest patriotic Independence Day celebration in Oregon.” One of the groups involved, BLEXIT Oregon, is a state chapter of a national organization where people of color encourage other people of color to leave the Democratic Party. Yaneeda Brannigan, state director for BLEXIT, and another local right-wing organizer and Proud Boy Chris Tough, created the event page on Facebook.

Shortly after the event was first announced in May, a video produced by an Oregon-based patriot group named Flag Called Freedom began circulating around Facebook promoting the celebration. Members of Flag Called Freedom were present at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, the day of the insurrection, according to its Facebook

page. A video from that day shows group members holding up a large American flag and chanting, “Stop the steal.”

In the video promoting the Creswell event, dramatic music plays in the background while adults and children are filmed holding the same large American flag. With slow motion video of the flag rippling, text moves across the screen celebrating the victory over racist buzzwords like “China virus” and “masked invaders.”

McReynolds Jr., who was present at the November BLM rally when the Trump supporters arrived, says some of the footage is from the November event and some is from a July 2020 Independence Day event. Some of the people shown in the Creswell video are also seen in another Flag Called Freedom video filmed in Huntington Beach, California.

“They used a Fourth of July sunset minutes before the attack video,” McReynolds Jr. says, adding that a previous version of the video did not have the Fourth of July video footage.

This year’s event was originally going to take place at TJ’s Family Restaurant and Lounge in Creswell, a restaurant owned by Tom Nelson located right off the interstate. Bob Jensen, who is in the process of purchasing half of TJ’s and is also the owner of several Eugene restaurants, including Wild Duck Cafe, applied for a permit on May 27 to serve alcohol in the TJ’s parking lot during the July 4 event.

In the permit application, Jensen wrote that he expected the attendance to be 150 to 200 people for the day.

A week after Jensen submitted the OLCC permit application, Sgt. Scott Denham, an officer with the Lane County Sheriff’s Department who is stationed in Creswell, wrote an email to the city saying that his only concern was that the event had been widely publicized by those involved in the planning and may exceed the expected capacity. Still, Denham recommended the council to approve the request.

After the permit was discussed and approved at a June 14 Creswell City Council Meeting, TJ’s owner Nelson spoke out, telling the *Creswell Chronicle* in a news story

that he knew nothing about the permit, even though it was submitted under his restaurant license, Nelson Restaurant Corporation.

“I have never heard a bad word about Tom Nelson, and I’m happy to give him a pass right now, but I don’t believe that he didn’t know. These are sophisticated business guys, there is no way he didn’t have a clue,” McReynolds Jr. says. Nelson did not respond to multiple requests for comment as of press time.

According to the event website and multiple posts in Creswell Community Connection, a Facebook group for Creswell residents, the event is still taking place even though no one has secured permits for a staging area or a parade.

In a one Facebook post, organizer Julie Bivens, who shares far-right conspiracy theories on Facebook such as QAnon, wrote that the parade is still taking place. When someone responded asking if she had the proper permits, another person wrote back that they did have the proper permits and posted a photo of the U.S. Constitution.

“If they think an unpermitted parade, like what we had in November, if it’s that much or bigger, we’ve got a freeway interchange that’s blocked into a little town,” McReynolds Jr. says. “And that’s that’s alarming and that’s not OK.”

Now, Sgt. Denham says the application has been pulled, but he is unaware whether the group has found another main staging area for the event. He says the group does plan to start a car caravan at the nearby Tractor Supply Co. No other permits have been filed.

After the group was adamant about still holding a parade, Denham posted portions of the Creswell Municipal Code on his Facebook profile to remind people what is and isn’t allowed. The city code states that a parade that impedes traffic without a permit is illegal.

The city code also specifies that people can be fined \$2,500 for attempting to coerce others into breaking city ordinances or working with others to violate city ordinances. Denham says no one has been cited yet but they are subject to fines if they break city ordinance. He says there are two deputies stationed in the area on the holiday, which is typical.

McReynolds says she has spent her time trying to make the community aware of the event’s origins, and letting organizers know that the town does not welcome their extremist activities.

“My job is done,” McReynolds Jr. says. “I’ve made it clear that they are not entirely welcome.”

The city of Creswell and the Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring the city’s actual Fourth of July celebration, offering contests for patriotic decorated homes and pets, hosting games and a military jet flyover at Creswell Airport and launching fireworks at the Bald Knob Mill property – but no parade. ▪

For more information on the city’s Fourth of July festivities, visit [CreswellChamber.com](http://CreswellChamber.com).

## slant

• Lane County and the Pacific Northwest endured record-breaking hot weather this past week — with the Eugene Airport recording 111 degrees at 5 pm, June 27. **This is climate change, and it's ugly.**

• **What entering college students are reading:** *Why Fish Don't Exist: A Story of Loss, Love, and the Hidden Order of Life* by NPR reporter Lulu Miller. Several years

old, this book is a favorite to assign to freshmen the summer before they start college — a memoir of Miller, a biography of scientist David Starr Jordan and a dive into the complexities of both humans and science.

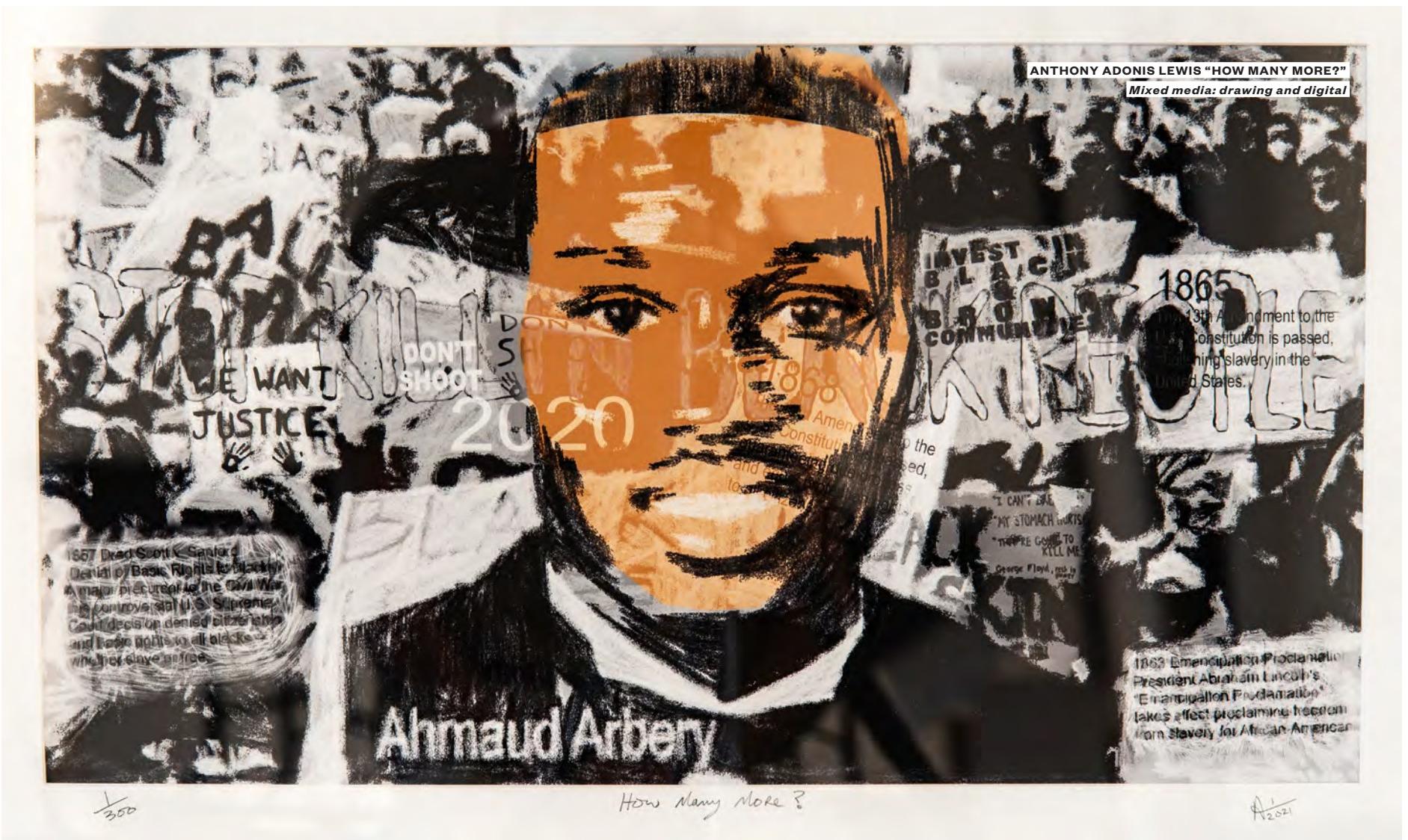
• When John Adams wrote a letter to Abigail Adams, calling for **fireworks to celebrate the Continental Congress' July 2 vote for independence**, he clearly wasn’t thinking of the harm they can cause. Knowing that Oregon is in drought and that wildfires are mostly human caused, let’s call off

the fireworks. Dogs, wildlife, veterans and the environment will thank you.

• **COVID-19 delayed the 2020 U.S. Olympic Trials by a year, but it will be one to remember.** The several-day-long trials had a lot of drama — from Oregon-born and raised Ryan Crouser setting a world record in shot put to Gwen Berry turning away from the flag while the national anthem played. But what was impressive was that one Olympic trial event was available for free: the 20k race walk event in Springfield, which was conducted smoothly. If

USA Track and Field truly wants to grow the sport, hopefully Hayward Field will host free events or offer discounted ticket prices next time.

• One more name is out there in the **political rumor mill for candidates for Oregon governor in 2022**. That’s Greg Walden, the Republican congressman for Oregon’s 2nd district from 1999 to 2020. Why would Walden run? Maybe he’s bored after leaving Congress and the D.C. scene. He would be a formidable candidate, but we’re still betting on a Democrat in this blue state.



# WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

A grant-inspired art exhibit opening at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art addresses Black Lives Matter

BY ESTER BARKAI

**S**peaking with Jordan Schnitzer over the phone, I hear an urgency about putting a grant together for a Black Lives Matter art exhibit.

Every group, no matter their culture, ethnicity or gender, has been a target for some other group, he says. It's a remarkable statement but one that rings true, especially considering the history of the U.S. — or of Eastern Europe or Russia, where Schnitzer's maternal grandparents are from.

Funded by Schnitzer, a Portland real estate developer and avid art collector, work by 20 artists goes on display July 3 in the Black Lives Matter Artist Grant Exhibit, which runs through Nov. 21 at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art at the University of Oregon. The artists were chosen by a panel assembled by the museum and the Llylle Reynolds-Parker Black Cultural Center on campus.

The artists are mostly from the Eugene area, though some also are from Bend and Ashland. They are an eclectic group in terms of culture, race and ethnicity, though the subject matter of their art, relating to Black Lives Matter, ties them together. They have come to Oregon from across the country and around the world. And though the four artists highlighted in this story all work with different media, most of the work in this show is photography or video based.

The artists are John Adair, Mika Aono, Gabriel Barrera, Gabby Beauvais, Kathleen Caprario and Gregory S. Black, Marco Elliott, Marina Hajek, Jasmine Jackson, Mya Lansing, Ana-Maurine Lara, Anthony Adonis Lewis as well as Stormie Loury, Malik Lovette, Tumelo Michael Moloi, Naomi Meyer, Artemas Ori, Michael Perkins, Josh Sands, Aaron Thompson and MO WO.

Schnitzer created the grant and three exhibits in partnership with the Jordan Schnitzer Museums of Art, which

are located at Portland State University, Washington State University and at the UO. The 20 artists at each of the three museums were each awarded \$2,500.

Moloi, True, Adair and Aono, four of the 20 grantees funded by the grant whose art is showing in Eugene, used their funds to address racism and its associated effects. Their work is done in different media and carries with it different tones. But each puts forth a message of strength, unity and hope, steps from which to carry on conversing and, hopefully, towards creating a more just and equal overall society.

## SEEKING LIBERATION

Stormie Loury, who also goes by the name True, is originally from Chicago but has lived in the Pacific Northwest for 21 years. She describes herself as "an Afro-futuristic social political multimedia activator who focuses on themes of Black Liberation." Her three works in the show, all done in felt textile, reference a "survivalist perspective," according to her artist statement:

See 'they' started too soon,  
with no wisdom  
'they' rose  
'their' feet bruised from  
the money motivation.  
With no foundation 'they' rise.  
So keep rising fool  
Cause what 'they' searching for  
We've always had.

What "We've always had" is a particular kind of wisdom or strength which the artist describes as necessary for the "African American" (quotes are hers) mind to survive in the "white" world; a strength required not just to survive but also to maintain cultural roots.

Loury's artwork "Survivalist Perspective II: Her Blood Tears" represents a "3rd eye" that helps people to persist beyond the physical and emotional sacrifices they've had to endure. In her view, it's this third eye that assists African Americans in maintaining their sense of culture and identity.

## COLLABORATIVE DANCE

Another grantee, Tumelo Michael Moloi, moved from South Africa to the U.S. to perform with Cirque du Soleil in Las Vegas. He tells me about the culture shock he experienced one Martin Luther King Day: Cirque du Soleil asked non-Black performers in the troupe to step aside for a photograph. Moloi was surprised that white people were being excluded from the picture. He says in South Africa, when Nelson Mandela came to power, he could have sought revenge and excluded enemies but generally led by "treating everyone the same."

In other words, celebrating equality shouldn't be a Black thing. Moloi says, "Everybody has to work together."

Moloi wound up in Junction City because, as he says, "I fell in love." His wife's family has a farm where he now lives and works, and where his father-in-law allowed him to convert an outbuilding into an artist's studio.

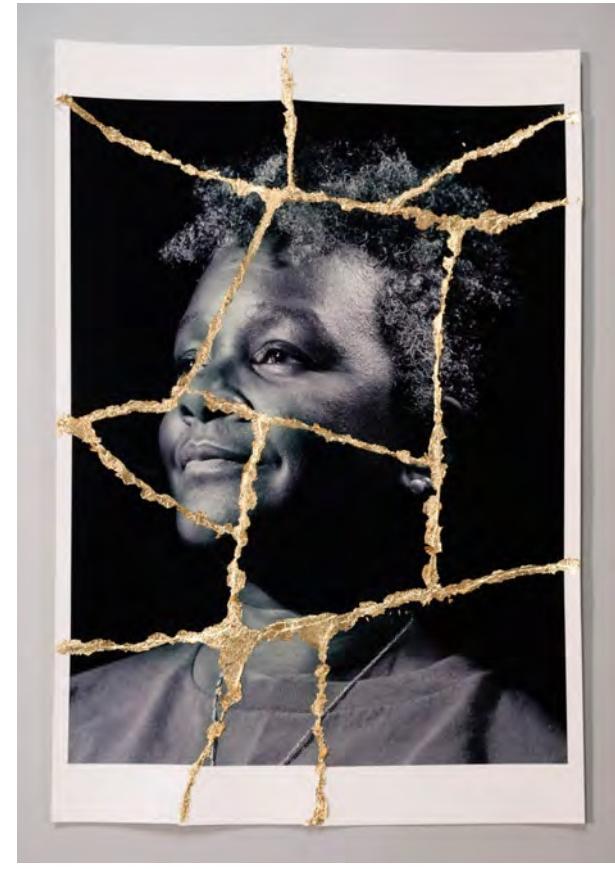
Though he hasn't found much opportunity in Eugene for the artistic collaboration he has done elsewhere, he views living here as an opportunity to start over, to do something new and more personal. Sharing the video with me that he submitted to apply for the BLM Artist Grant, I see a highly collaborative piece that couldn't have been led by anybody else. He choreographed via Zoom with artists in different countries, combining music, dancing, news footage and even references to hand washing in rhythm, marking the pandemic during which it was made.



**STORMIE TRUE "SURVIVALIST PERSPECTIVE I"**  
Felt textile



**MIKA AONO "PRINTING FOR EQUITY"**  
One of 14 screenprint posters



**JOHN ADAIR "BLK&GLD"**  
Photo series, Inkjet prints and gold leaf

Beginning with footage of Black workers in South Africa during apartheid, the video splits the screen to show three dancers each doing the same dance in the U.S., in South Africa and in Brazil.

One of the dances he includes in his performance is called "Gumboot." The dance originated in the mines of South Africa as a way for workers to communicate among themselves. Miners were from different cultures and spoke as many as 11 different languages, Moloi says. But when they stomped their rain boots twice, for example, it meant the bosses were coming.

You could say that Moloi's entry in the exhibit (or entries — he's not sure if one or both of his videos will be shown), functions as a call, too. First, he says, people have to acknowledge the reality of the Black experience. Having been around for the last part of apartheid, he believes in the adage that the first step toward fixing a problem is acknowledging it exists.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

John Adair came to Eugene from Kansas. A full-time Lane Community College student and a part-time photo-journalist for the school's paper *The Torch*, he also works for the fairly new *Double Sided Media*, a digital publication that delivers "Heady Writing From The Streets of Eugene, Oregon."

Adair photographed the riot that broke out in Eugene last May. It was totally by accident, he says. He happened to be at his studio, which was on 7th Avenue at the time. The first thing he heard was fireworks then later saw the dumpster fire. He had his equipment so he went down

and took pictures.

His photographs from that night are available for viewing on his website, [JohnAdairPhotographs.com](http://JohnAdairPhotographs.com), under the series titled "George Floyd Riot of Eugene, Oregon." They capture stunning moments of frustration, violence and confusion.

Adair chose a more controlled environment for the setting of his BLM Artist Grant work. Going for a "personal take" this time, he took photographs of his family. Six photographs from his series titled "Black and Gold" are featured in the exhibit.

He spoke with family members from whom he'd been feeling disconnected, and he says the experience made him feel closer to them. Before he took their portraits, he asked each relative to relate an experience they had with racism. In each instance, the first racist experience his family encountered occurred during childhood.

The photographs are printed in black and white. The gold in the series "Black and Gold" is gold leaf. Borrowing from a Japanese practice used to mend broken pottery called *kintsugi*, Adair tore his portraits and then glued them back together, lining the "scars" with gold.

Referencing the Japanese aesthetic, he says that we can fix broken things and still find them beautiful. His relatives recovered from the racist incidents, he says, moved on and now live lives that are not defined by fear.

## PRINT PERFORMANCE

Recipient Mika Aono is from Japan. She studied art at LCC and the University of Oregon before earning an MFA in printmaking from the San Francisco Art Institute. She

has lived in Eugene for 19 years and manages the print shop for the UO's School of Art and Design.

When she was younger, Aono went to Nepal to work with the Red Cross, and she ran a small fair-trade business in Peru. In her life outside of art she says she sometimes feels helpless to effect change.

But as a printmaker, she says, "I do what I can."

Using funds from her grant, she held two "print performances" at Eugene Contemporary Art's ANTI-AESTHETIC gallery. She says performances are important because they invite people to gather.

Her BLM Artist Grant work was inspired by the signage that sprang up around town these last years, on people's lawns and in store windows, calling for peace and for unity. She especially liked the BLM slogan, "We're all in this together." It makes her feel happy, she says. So when she was chosen as a grantee, she knew she wanted to put more positive signs out into the community.

Though she will have prints in the exhibit, the assistance she received from the grant for materials enabled her to give posters away, too. She gave away lots during the performances. In fact, she ran out of posters. She then printed more and ran out again.

## CREATING A CONVERSATION

Schnitzer has seen images of the art ahead of the show. "Wow," he says.

The one word response takes me aback. It's quite different from the eloquent manner in which he's been discussing the topic of racism, and of art in the abstract. "Artists force us to look at our values," he starts off. "Are we the people we think we are? Do we practice what we preach?"

Then in response to the art, it's just "Wow."

But isn't that the way it is when an artwork grabs you? Then, if you want to talk about it, you have to think about your response. You have to find the words.

That's how this grant started for him: with a desire to generate words. He has more than 19,000 works in his personal art collection. His focus is on contemporary artists, many of whom are people of color. He could have easily drawn from his collection to support an exhibit that stimulates dialogue. But last year, when BLM protests were taking place in Schnitzer's hometown of Portland, he wished more conversation was taking place as well.

Rather than looking at art made in the past, no matter how excellent, he says, he created this grant to encourage art to be made to address this moment in the BLM movement. ■

*The Black Lives Matter Artist Grant Exhibit runs July 3 to Nov. 21 at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art on the UO campus. JSMA is open 11 am to 5 pm on Saturdays and Sundays. A celebration of the BLM Artist Grant program at JSMA is scheduled for 5 to 7 pm Thursday, July 8.*





# what's happening

Rodeo fans want to see the arm jerker, a bronc or bull with a powerful buck, not a hat bender, an animal who bucks very little and mostly runs around the arena. Chasing cans, or barrel racing, is another fan favorite, as is bulldogging, aka steer wrestling, where a cowboy leaps off his horse onto a running steer, grabs it by the horns and wrestles it to the ground. And don't forget the bullfighters, also known as rodeo clowns — their work in protecting bull riders is delicate and serious, but their patter can crack up the crowd. There is an art to protecting the riders. Lane County rodeo fans, after a year off because of COVID, will get to see it all this week at the **Eugene Pro Rodeo**. The first night is Family Night, and kids, be sure to saddle up on your stick horse for the trail course. The next night is "Tough Enough To Wear Pink" night, and "American Celebration" wraps up the three-day event.

The Eugene Pro Rodeo is July 2 through July 4 at the Oregon Horse Center, 2644 River Road. Gates open at 5 pm each day with rodeo performances starting at 7:30 pm and fireworks shows at 10 pm. Tickets at the gate are \$10 to \$27 on the first night, \$17 to \$27 the next two nights, all general admission, and kids 5 and under are free every night. — Dan Buckwalter

## GENERAL

**LISTINGS ARE FREE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED**

### ART EXHIBITS

*Bets Cole: Right Angles + Raw Edges: Buildings in the Landscape* (thru July 10), Karin Clarke Gallery.

*Ataraxy* art exhibit (thru July 11), Bennett Vineyards & Wine Co.

*Be Here Now* (thru July 16), Maude Kerns Art Ctr.

*Exhibition: Summer - Reflection of the Season* (thru July 31), White Lotus Gallery.

*Flower Spirits: Watercolors* by Kaya Singer (thru Aug. 12), Park Street Cafe.

*A Retrospective of Cuban Printmaker Belkis Ayon* (thru Sept. 5), Schnitzer Museum. \$5.

Studio 7 reopening. More info at Studio 7 Facebook.

Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, JSMA.UOregon.edu.

### FILM

Films at Broadway Metro. More info at BroadwayMetro.com.

Heritage Broadcasting Service (Eugene) has more than 137 titles to choose from, including recent additions

*Twelve Canoes, Cedar: Tree of Life and Legacy in Stone*.

More info at HeritageTac.org.

### GATHERINGS

Gathering and Free Summer Lunch Program for youth 2-18 years (thru Aug. 27, 10am-2pm for gathering, 11:30am-12:30pm for lunch). COVID vaccinations every Thursday (thru July 22), noon-2pm, Mims House, 330 High St. More info at NACPLaneCounty.org.

Job Search Help by appointment at the downtown library. Call 541-686-7985 to schedule.

### HEALTH

YMCA Choose-Your-Own Fitness Adventure: Oregon Edition (thru Sept. 13). More info at EugeneYMCA.org.

Zoom workout classes at CrossFit. Email Contact@CrossFitIntensify.com for more info.

Workout classes at IAmForeverStrong.com.

Workout classes at Evolve Fitness Studios. More info at Facebook.

Workout & Yoga Classes at West Lane Fitness in Veneta. More info at WestLaneFitness.com.

Yoga & Workout Classes at Yoga West Eugene. More info at YogaWestEugene.com

Yoga classes at EugeneYoga.us; WildLightYogaCenter.com; EugeneMudra.com; HotYogaEugeneBalanced.com; YogaEugene.com.

All levels of yoga (chair, advanced, yoga for health care workers and children) at Vista Wellness Ctr. Visit VistaPsych.com for more info.

### KIDS/FAMILY

Eugene Public Library: *The Little Mouse, the Red Ripe Strawberry and Big Hungry Bear/El Ratoncito* and a Storybook Obstacle Course, in the park at Petersen Barn Community Ctr; *Honeybee* in Alton Baker Park near the Community Gardens. More info at 541-682-5450 or at Eugene-or.gov/library.

Summer On The Hill w/ Oak Hill. RSVP at OakHillSchool.net

Summer Reading Challenge ("Reading Colors Your World") w/ Springfield Public Library (thru Aug. 21). More info at WhereMinds-Grow.Beanstack.org.

Summer Reading for All Ages: Free Books and Book Bingo (thru Aug. 31), all Eugene Public Library locations.

The Emerald Art Center Presents the 2021 Dotty & Frank Light Family Summer Youth Art Camp (two camps in August). RSVP at EmeraldArtCenter.org.

Registration for Willamalane summer events, Willamalane.org.

### MUSIC

Online "Music in the Garden" (thru July 10) w/ Eugene Symphony. More info at EugeneSymphonyGuild.org.

Eugene Porch Fest (July 7-11), various locations in Eugene. Tickets at EugenePorchFest.com.

### RECREATION

Card games at High Mountain Poker. More info at 541-485-0090 and at HighMountainPoker.com.

## THURSDAY

JULY 1

### ARTS/CRAFTS

Explore Oregon (thru Sunday), 11am-4pm. RSVP & more info at MNCH.edu.

Oregon—Where Past is Present (thru Sunday), 11am-4pm. RSVP & more info at MNCH.edu.

Artistic Encounters, noon-1pm, Kesey Square.

### GATHERINGS

Hearing Voices and Different Realities discussion & support group, 1-2:30pm, Alton Baker Park. More info at DifferentMinds.us.

### HEALTH

NAMI Family Support Zoom Group @ NAMILane.org. RSVP at NAMILane.org.

### MUSIC

OBF: Emerson String Quartet (thru July 11), OregonBachFestival.org.

Irrefutably Marc and Gus, 5pm, 5th Street Market.

Tim McLaughlin's Simple Trio, 6pm, Territorial Vineyards.

Pete Kartounes, 6:30pm, McKenzie General Store.

The AM, 7pm, Beergarden.

### ON THE AIR

"The Point," 9am, KOPV, 88.0 FM

Thursday eKLeCtic, 8-10pm, KLCC, 89.7FM

"Arts Journal," 9pm, Comcast channel 29

### RECREATION

Trivia w/ Elliot Martinez, 6-8pm, Covered Bridge Brewing Group in Cottage

Grove (weather permitting; more info on Facebook).

General Trivia, 6:30-8pm, Viking Braggot Brewery on Commercial St.

### SPIRITUAL

Zen Meditation, 7-8am, Blue Cliff Zen Ctr, 352 W. 12th Ave.

## FRIDAY

JULY 2

### ART/CRAFT

First Friday ArtWalk w/ Art by Julie Anderson Bailey: *The State of Hope*, 5:30pm, New Zone.

### GATHERINGS

City Club of Eugene: "Oregon Legislative Wrap Up: What Got Done in the 2021 Long Session," noon, Eugene City Club Facebook. Airs again at 7pm Monday, July 5 on KLCC, 89.7 FM.

Food Not Bombs, cooking starts at noon (email EugeneFoodNotBombs@gmail.com for location), serves at 4pm at Park Blocks, E. 8th Ave. & Oak St. next to fountains.

### KIDS/FAMILY

Family Fun in the Sun, 11am-4pm. Register at MNCH. UOregon.edu.

### MUSIC

Jeanne Greg Band, 6pm, Territorial Vineyards.

Jimmy Haggard Band, 6pm, Pfeiffer Winery.

El Borko Surf! at Silvan Ridge Winery, 6:30pm, Silvan Ridge. \$5

Inner Limits, 7:30pm, The Public House, Spfd.

### SPECTATOR SPORTS

Eugene Pro Rodeo, 7:30pm. More info at EugeneProRodeo.com. \$10-27.

### SPIRITUAL

Zen Meditation (instruction provided), 7pm. Zoom only at BlueCliffZen.org.

## SATURDAY

JULY 3

### FARMERS MARKETS

Saturday Lane County Farmers Market, 9am-3pm, 5th Ave. between High & Oak streets.

Spencer Creek Growers Market, 10am-2pm, 86013 Lorane Hwy.

### KIDS/FAMILY

Family Fun in the Sun, 11am-4pm, Museum of Natural and Cultural History. RSVP at MNCH.UOregon.edu.

### LITERARY ARTS

Rainbow Reads, 6-8pm, WordCrafters.org.

### MUSIC

OBF: Bel Canto w/ Lawrence Brownlee (thru July 11), OregonBachFestival.org.

### ON THE AIR

"Swervin' In My Lane," 4-6pm, KOFC, 92.7 FM

## TUESDAY

JULY 6

### ART/CRAFT

Artistic Encounters, noon-1pm, Kesey Square.

### FARMERS MARKETS

Tuesday Farmers Market, 10am-4pm, Park Blocks, E. 8th Ave. & Oak Street.

### KIDS/FAMILY

In-person Family Storytime in July and August, 10:30am, downtown Eugene Public Library.

### LECTURES/CLASSES

North Eugene Toastmasters, 7-8:15am. More info at NorthEugene.ToastMasters.org.

Gentle Restorative Yoga w/ Robert, 10am, HealingAttention.org. \$15.

Lunchtime Meditation, noon-12:30pm. More info at MeditateInEugene.org. \$1.

## calendar

Figure Drawing, 6-9pm, The Church, 3rd & Monroe.  
Stages of the Path, Lamrim, 6-7:30pm. More info at MeditateInEugene.org. FREE-\$10.

### LITERARY ARTS

TransPonder Book Club, 5-6pm, TransponderCommunity.

### MUSIC

OBF: Lara Downes presents *Phenomenal Women: Part 2, American Pioneers* (thru July 11), OregonBachFestival.org.

### SPECTATOR SPORTS

Eugene Emeralds vs. Everett Aquasox, 7:05pm, PK Park. Tickets at MiLB/Eugene.

## WEDNESDAY

JULY 7

### KIDS/FAMILY

Storytime with Springfield Public Library, 10-10:30am, WhereMindsGrow.org.

Family Storytime in July and August, 10:30am, Eugene Public Library Facebook.

### LECTURES/CLASSES

Lunchtime Meditation, noon-12:30pm. More info at MeditateInEugene.org. \$1.

Nia: Moving to Heal, 3-4pm, HealingAttention.org. \$15.

Gender Diverse Yoga, 5:30-6:30pm, Transponder Community.

Wednesday Yoga in the Park w/ Karan, 6pm, Skinner Butte Park: Riverplay. \$20-75.

### MUSIC

OBF: Counterpoint w/ Bach & Beethoven (thru July 11), OregonBachFestival.org.

RIFFLE, 6pm, Riverfront Park, Harrisburg.

Sounds Like Summer Concert in the Park, 6:30pm, Island Park. Info at Willamalane.org. \$8-10.

Upstate Quartet, 7pm, The Public House, Spfd.

### OUTDOORS

Wild Wednesday Bunchgrass Ridge, 8am-5pm, Cog Wild Bicycle Tours Oakridge. More info at CogWild.com.

### SPECTATOR SPORTS

Eugene Emeralds vs. Everett Aquasox, 7:05pm, PK Park. Tickets at MiLB/Eugene.

## THURSDAY

JULY 8

### ARTS/CRAFTS

Explore Oregon (thru Sunday), 11am-4pm. RSVP & more info at MNCH.edu.

Oregon—Where Past is Present (thru Sunday), 11am-4pm. RSVP & more info at MNCH.edu.

Artistic Encounters, noon-1pm, Kesey Square.

### HEALTH

NAMI Family Support Zoom Group @ NAMILane.org. RSVP at NAMILane.org.

### LECTURES/CLASSES

Paint and Party — Clothes on the line, 6-8pm, Galleria at the Smith. \$40.

### MUSIC

OBF: Music of Hope and Resilience, OBF Composers Symposium (thru July 11), OregonBachFestival.org.

Barbara Healy Trio, 6pm, Territorial Vineyards.

John Shipe, 6:30pm, McKenzie General Store.

Dear Mr. Henshaw, 7pm, beergarden.

Dance Variations w/ microphilharmonic, 7:30pm, The Shedd. Ticket info at TheShedd.org.

### ON THE AIR

"The Point," 9am, KOPV, 88.0 FM

Thursday eKLeCtic, 8-10pm, KLCC, 89.7FM

"Arts Journal," 9pm, Comcast channel 29

### RECREATION

Trivia w/ Elliot Martinez, 6-8pm, Covered Bridge Brewing Group in Cottage Grove (weather permitting; more info on Facebook).

General Trivia, 6:30-8pm, Viking Braggot Brewery on Commercial St.

### SPECTATOR SPORTS

Eugene Emeralds vs. Everett Aquasox, 7:05pm, PK Park. Tickets at MiLB/Eugene.

### SPIRITUAL

Zen Meditation, 7-8am, Blue Cliff Zen Ctr, 352 W. 12th Ave.

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# Women Composers Take the Stage

AWARD-WINNING CLASSICAL PIANIST PLAYS THE MUSIC OF FEMALE COMPOSERS AT THIS YEAR'S VIRTUAL OREGON BACH FEST

By Will Kennedy

**A** versatile and prolific pianist with a gentle touch for her instrument, Lara Downes performed several times at this year's virtual Oregon Bach Festival, after participating over the winter in a remote artist residency with the University of Oregon School of Music and Dance.

The California-based musician's final appearance at this year's online event is *Phenomenal Women Part 2: American Pioneers* on July 6, showcasing several great American female composers of the 20th century, including Amy Beach, Eve Belgarian, Margaret Bonds and Hazel Scott.

Born in San Francisco in the early 1970s, Downes is a conservatory-trained musician who has played piano since the age of four.

Looking up at the walls of her practice space as a young musician, Downes recalls seeing portraits of old white male composers looking back at her. At that time, she was largely unaware of the female contribution to the classical music canon.

Of those early experiences as a musician, she says, "You love this music. It feels like home in so many ways.

But everyone you're seeing is from another century and from another gender and race."

Downes continues, "You're always measuring up to some standard that doesn't include you — across the board. It's odd to function in a man's world when that's not what you are."

And once the underrepresented contributions of women in music were uncovered, Downes made it her life's work to share the work more widely. In the work of female composers, "There's definitely a different lived experience," Downes says.

But the common thread, she says, are "women who were ahead of their time — though I'm getting tired of saying ahead of their time — let's just say, 'outside their time,' operating without being hemmed in by the restraints that existed."

Last year, Downes released *Florence Price Piano Discoveries*, a mid-century American composer equally as comfortable with Euro-centric romantic music as she was with jazz and spiritual informed compositions, and whose works were just being rediscovered at the time of Downes' recording.

Following that, there was *Phenomenal Women*, the



LARA DOWNES

first of four EPs released on Downes' own record label, Rising Sun Music. And that's not all. In mid-July, *New Day Begun* is expected from Lara Downes and Friends.

The first full-length album from Downes label, it's a collection of music from Black composers of every genre, with new arrangements of Sam Cooke's classic "A Change Is Gonna Come" and Lettie B. Alston's "Lift Every Voice and Sing," with several guest appearances.

Downes can't say exactly how her trajectory as a musician might have changed with a broader awareness of diverse contributions to the canon of classical music earlier on, but she says, "I can tell you it would have been happier and healthier." ■

*With historical context and a visual component, Phenomenal Women Part 2: American Pioneers is available only at OregonBachFestival.org from July 6 through July 11; FREE.*

# All the World's a Porch

PORCHFEST BRINGS LIVE MUSIC TO UNEXPECTED PLACES ALL OVER EUGENE AND SPRINGFIELD

By Will Kennedy

**A**mong the most notable local events ending the ban on live music since the pandemic shutdown is Eugene PorchFest, a brand-new, five-day, DIY music festival running July 7-11 at improvised concert spaces throughout the Eugene-Springfield area.

An eclectic bunch of local artists will perform at the event, including small classical ensembles like **Delgani String Quartet** on Sunday, July 11, Balkan music from **Kef** on Saturday, July 10, and the popular live band **Mood Area 52** playing tango and Americana fusion, also on July 11.

Up to eight performances are scheduled to take place on each day of the festival, according to event organizers.

Although a Google Map on the PorchFest website gives some sense of the venues' locations — the intriguingly

named **Eugene Difficult Music Ensemble**, for example, performs somewhere on Harris Street in south Eugene — where exactly these concerts take place remains unannounced until tickets are purchased through one centralized website, making the festival a bit like a series of ticketed house shows.

Alex Abrams and Emma Rose Lynn are two organizers of the concert series.

Throughout the 2020 concert shutdown, Abrams and Lynn wondered, "Where can we perform that we don't often think of?"

A married couple, Abrams and Lynn are themselves musicians — he played cello in the Eugene-based post-rock band This Patch of Sky, among other projects. She sings classical art songs with **Spire Duo**, slated to perform at PorchFest on Friday, July 9. (Abrams sits this year out as a performer.)

Lynn, a soprano, explains that at the height of the pandemic last summer, she and her music partner, Andrew T. Pham, who plays piano in Spire Duo, were both so desperate to play, they cleaned out Lynn's garage and "did a whole bunch of concerts," she says.

"That garage became a concert hall," she remembers. "It was really powerful. The community was really grateful."

Abrams and Lynn hope the festival not only provides space for musicians and audiences to interface during the COVID live music freeze, but also help artists rethink where they typically perform.

"Instead of a restaurant, or bar or tap house, why not see music in someone's backyard or driveway?" Abrams says.

A quick online search turns up "PorchFests" in a few other cities, like Milwaukie, Oregon, but Abrams and Lynn say their event is connected only in spirit.

"Everyone does it a little differently," Abrams says, but it was "super helpful for us as we were putting this together, to see what different models were. Once we

framed what this would look like," he continues, organizers took inspiration from how others had pulled it off.

Playing old-time folk and bluegrass with a modern twist on July 10 is **Corwin Bolt and the Wingnuts**. As soon as he was approached to play PorchFest, Bolt says he knew it would be special.

"Turns out a musical performance doesn't have to happen in a concert hall, or in a bar. It can happen anywhere," and the Wingnuts are no strangers to playing porches, city parks and parking lots, he says.

At Eugene PorchFest, Bolt continues, "each host and band work together to create a unique experience: every performance space is different," and the styles of music are wide ranging, he adds.

"People will emerge from their bunkers, step into the blinding sunlight and hear the sounds of music," Bolt says. "I cannot wait to see the looks on their faces."

No festival-style passes are available to the series of concerts, and each show requires a ticket. But the good news is that it's pay-what-you-can, starting at \$5 and capped at \$40, with an option to tip the musicians.

All the money goes to the performers, and capacity is limited — 30 at most at each event — so while it's possible to buy day-of-show tickets, it's best to get them early. No walk-up tickets will be sold, and the event could not happen without the generosity of the volunteer hosts, Lynn and Abrams say, so respect their spaces.

Even though state-mandated COVID precautions ended at the end of June, any further COVID-related safety measures will be up to the discretion of each individual venue, all outdoors. But, as a rule, the festival will follow the most up-to-date safety guidelines according to the CDC at the time of the festival, organizers say. ■

*Sponsored by ArtCity, the inaugural Eugene PorchFest is July 7-11 at DIY music spaces all over the Eugene-Springfield area. For more information, to make a tax-deductible donation, or to get a complete lineup of events and to purchase tickets, go to EugenePorchFest.com.*

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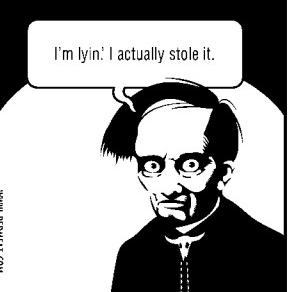
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I'll be in the water if you're looking for me this summer. #landscapephotography

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## RED MEAT

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**Max Cannon**



## Jonesin' Crossword

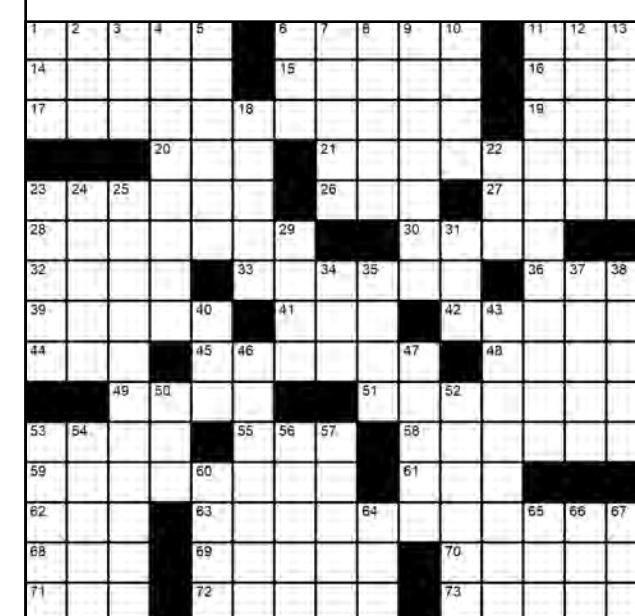
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### Across

- 1 "25" singer
- 2 "No thanks"
- 3 "Awesome!" (and the letters seen on the outside of each theme answer)
- 4 Cartoon cat with a "bag of tricks"
- 5 "Same here"
- 6 Fight of the Century participant
- 7 They're coming to save the day
- 8 Downside
- 9 Announcer Hall
- 10 Hardly sympathetic
- 11 Noble partner?
- 12 "A ... crawlly thing!"
- 13 Fivesome on a clock face
- 14 Gathered
- 15 "Semper Paratus" org.
- 16 Cereal box activity, maybe
- 17 Easy two-pointers
- 18 Tire filler
- 19 Carmen" composer
- 20 "La \_\_" (Debussy opus)
- 21 "Gandhi" character
- 22 "Angry Anymore" singer DiFranco
- 23 "The Wizard of Oz" setting
- 24 Illuminating gas
- 25 Financial subj.
- 26 souchong tea
- 27 Come up short
- 28 Sir, this is a \_\_" (fast food-based meme response)
- 29 Rookie
- 30 It gets spilled, so to speak
- 31 Singer Rita
- 32 Colorful final track in most Mario Kart games
- 33 Make a dent in
- 34 Two-pointer
- 35 Tire filler
- 36 Avoid skillfully
- 37 Button on some flip phones
- 38 "Black Velvet" singer Alannah \_\_
- 39 Suffix with poly
- 40 Wizard of Oz" setting
- 41 "La \_\_" (Ritchie Valens hit)
- 42 "Black Velvet" singer Alannah \_\_
- 43 Suffixed word
- 44 "Same here"
- 45 Come up short
- 46 "Sir, this is a \_\_" (fast food-based meme response)
- 47 Rookie
- 48 Singer Rita
- 49 Colorful final track in most Mario Kart games
- 50 Make a dent in
- 51 Wizard of Oz" setting
- 52 "Black Velvet" singer Alannah \_\_
- 53 Suffix with poly
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- 91 Wizard of Oz" setting
- 92 "Black Velvet" singer Alannah \_\_
- 93 Colorful final track in most Mario Kart games
- 94 Make a dent in
- 95 Wizard of Oz" setting
- 96 "Black Velvet" singer Alannah \_\_
- 97 Colorful final track in most Mario Kart games
- 98 Make a dent in
- 99 Wizard of Oz" setting
- 100 "Black Velvet" singer Alannah \_\_

### Down

- 12nd-largest continent, for short
- 2 River in Scotland that sounds like a letter
- 3 See 57-Down
- 4 Franchise operator
- 5 Gives off
- 6 Proofs of age
- 7 Raise, as curiosity
- 8 Carry \_\_
- 9 Compare
- 10 Vending machine drink
- 11 Leaving competitors in
- 12 From the outside.
- 13 Fender flaws
- 14 Automotive disaster of the 1950s
- 15 Sinbad's giant egg-layer
- 16 "La \_\_" (Ritchie Valens hit)
- 17 At full speed, for short
- 18 What "Dolittle" won in the category of Worst Prequel, Remake, Rip-off or Sequel, in 2021
- 19 2017 Kendrick Lamar album
- 20 Taxpayer's no.
- 21 Positive feedback
- 22 Mountain range separating Europe and Asia
- 23 "La \_\_" (Ritchie Valens hit)
- 24 What "Dolittle" won in the category of Worst Prequel, Remake, Rip-off or Sequel, in 2021
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- 35 2017 Kendrick Lamar album
- 36 "La \_\_" (Ritchie Valens hit)
- 37 2017 Kendrick Lamar album
- 38 Ladder parts
- 39 Ring decision
- 40 Gets tangled up
- 41 Deviation
- 42 Handled, as a matter
- 43 "Hockey Night in Canada" broadcaster
- 44 TV "Playhouse" name
- 45 Lawn figurine
- 46 Put on TV again
- 47 Brecht's "Threepenny Opera" collaborator
- 48 With 3-Down, golf legend from South Africa
- 49 City NW of Provo
- 50 Wanna-\_\_ (copycats)
- 51 On vacation
- 52 Sports drink suffix
- 53 "Dawson's Creek" actor James Van \_\_ Beek



ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S  
MELMAC STD APS  
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VIDEOSLOTS DREI  
FEE UDDERS  
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WHOSLL OVINYOU  
RODEO END OFAGE  
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# FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

BY ROB BREZSNY

**ARIES** (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): Columnist Linda Weltner says that there's a dual purpose to cleaning your home, rearranging the furniture, adding new art to the walls and doting on your potted plants. Taking good care of your environment is a primary way of taking good care of yourself. She writes, "The home upon which we have lavished so much attention is the embodiment of our own self love." I invite you to make that your inspirational meditation for the next two weeks.

**TAURUS** (APRIL 20-MAY 20): "For peace of mind, I will lie about anything at any time," said author Amy Hempel. Hmm. I'm the opposite. To cultivate peace of mind, I try to speak and live the truth as much as I can. Lying makes me nervous. It also seems to make me dumber. It forces me to keep close track of my fibs so I can be sure to stick to my same deceitful story when the subject comes up later. What about you, Taurus? For your peace of mind, do you prefer to rely on dishonesty or honesty? I'm hoping that for the next four weeks, you will favor the latter. Cultivating judicious candor will heal you and boost your intelligence.

**GEMINI** (MAY 21-JUNE 20): In her essay about education, "Don't Overthink It," philosopher Agnes Callard reminds us, "No matter how much we increase our investment at the front end — perfecting our minds with thinking classes, long ruminations, novel-reading and moral algebra — we cannot spare ourselves the agony of learning by doing." That will be a key theme for you in the next four weeks, dear Gemini. You will need to make abundant use of empiricism: pursuing knowledge through direct experience, using your powers of observation and a willingness to experiment.

**CANCER** (JUNE 21-JULY 22): Philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche said that when our rational minds are working at their best, they inspire us to cultivate our most interesting and enlightening passions. They also de-emphasize and suppress any energy-draining passions that might have a hold on us. I'm hoping you will take full advantage of this in the coming weeks, Cancerian. You will generate good fortune and sweet breakthroughs as you highlight desires that uplift you and downgrade desires that diminish you.

**LEO** (JULY 23-AUG. 22): Leo author Wendell Berry suggests, "It may be that when we no longer know what to do, we have come to our real work, and when we no longer know which way to go, we have begun our real journey." Although there's wisdom in that formulation, I don't think it's true a majority of the time. Far more often we are fed by the strong, clear intuitions that emerge from our secret depths — from the sacred gut feelings that give us accurate guidance about what to do and where to go. But I do suspect that right now may be one of those phases when Berry's notion is true for you, Leo. What do you think?

**VIRGO** (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22): In 1750, more than 250 years after Columbus first visited the New World, Native Americans were still a majority of the continent's population. But between 1776 and now, the United States government stole 1.5 billion acres of land from its original owners — 25 times the size of the United Kingdom. Here's another sad fact: Between 1778 and 1871, America's federal administrations signed more than 500 treaties with indigenous tribes — and broke every one of them. The possibility that these sins will eventually be remedied is very small. I bring them up only to serve as possible metaphors for your personal life. Is there anything you have unfairly gained from others? Is there anything others have unfairly gained from you? The next six months will be prime time to seek atonement and correction.

**LIBRA** (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22): Libran Zen teacher Thich Nhat Hanh advises you and me and everyone else to "seek the spiritual in every ordinary thing that you do every day." You have to work at it a bit, he says; you must have it as your firm intention. But it's not really hard to do. "Sweeping the floor, watering the vegetables, and washing the dishes become holy and sacred if mindfulness is there," he adds. I think you Libras will have a special knack for this fun activity in the coming weeks. (Thich Nhat Hanh wrote a series of "Mindfulness Essentials" books that includes *How to Eat, How to Walk, How to Relax and How to Connect*. I invite you to come up with your own such instructions.)

**SCORPIO** (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): My unexpected interpretation of the current astrological omens suggests that you will be wise to go naked as much as possible in the coming weeks. Being skyclad, as the pagans say, will be healing for you. You will awaken dormant feelings that will help you see the world with enhanced understanding. The love that you experience for yourself will soften one of your hard edges, and increase your appreciation for all the magic that your life is blessed with. One important caveat: Of course, don't impose your nakedness on anyone who doesn't want to witness it.

**SAGITTARIUS** (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): If you analyzed the best-selling songs as measured by *Billboard* magazine, you'd think we were in the midst of a dangerous decline in population. The vast majority of those popular tunes feature lyrics with reproductive themes. It's as if there's some abject fear that humans aren't going to make enough babies and need to be constantly cajoled and incited to engage in love-making. But I don't think you Sagittarians, whatever your sexual preference, will need any of that nagging in the coming days. Your Eros Quotient should be higher than it has been in a while.

**CAPRICORN** (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): Pulitzer Prize-winning author Donna Tartt, born under the sign of Capricorn, writes, "Beauty is rarely soft or consolatory. Quite the contrary. Genuine beauty is always quite alarming." In my view, that's an unwarranted generalization. It may sometimes be true, but is often not. Genuine beauty may also be elegant, lyrical, inspiring, healing and ennobling. Having said that, I will speculate that the beauty you encounter in the near future may indeed be disruptive or jolting, but mostly because it has the potential to remind you of what you're missing — and motivate you to go after what you've been missing.

**AQUARIUS** (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): On July 21, 1969, Aquarian astronaut Buzz Aldrin was the second human to walk on the moon. It happened during a spectacular astrological aspect, when transiting Jupiter and Uranus in Libra were trine to Aldrin's natal Sun in Aquarius. But after this heroic event, following his return to Earth, he found it hard to get his bearings again. He took a job as a car salesman, but had no talent for it. In six months, he didn't sell a single car. Later, however, he found satisfaction as an advocate for space exploration, and he developed technology to make future trips to Mars more efficient. I hope that if you are now involved in any activity that resembles Aldrin's stint as a car salesman — that is, a task you're not skilled at and don't like — you will spend the coming weeks making plans to escape to more engaging pursuits.

**PISCES** (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): Astronomers say the Big Bang birthed the universe 13.8 billion years ago. But a star 190 light years away from Earth contradicts that theory. Its age seems to be 14.5 billion years, older than the universe itself. Its scientific name is HD 140283, but it's informally referred to as Methuselah, named after the Biblical character who lived till age 969. Sometimes, like now, you remind me of that star. You seem to be an impossibly old soul — like you've been around so many thousands of lifetimes that, you, too, predate the Big Bang. But guess what: It's time to take a break from that aspect of your destiny. In the next two weeks, you have cosmic permission to explore the mysteries of playful innocence. Be young and blithe and curious. Treasure your inner child.

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### LEGAL NOTICES

#### Legal Notices

**CHANGE OF NAME NOTICE** In the Court of Common Pleas of Erie County Pennsylvania. Docket No. 11097-2021 In re: Landon Matthew Kaluzne, a minor. Notice is hereby given that a Petition has been filed in the above named Court by Charles Page, requesting an Order to change the name of Landon Matthew Kaluzne to Landon Matthew Page. The Court has fixed the 14th day of July, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom G, Room 222 of the Erie County Courthouse, 140 W. 6th St., Erie, PA 16501 as the time and place for the hearing on said petition, when and where all parties may appear and show cause, if any they have, why the prayer of the petitioner should not be granted.

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY** Probate Department. In the Matter of the Estate of: NANALEE GAY OLSON, Deceased. Case No. 2IPB04871 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Katherine Hecker and Celinda Travelstead have been appointed co-personal representatives of this estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the co-personal representatives c/o Robert Cole Tozer, Attorney at Law, 975 Oak St., Suite 616, Eugene, OR 97401, (541)345-0796, within four months of the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the co-personal representatives, or the co-personal representatives' attorney, Robert Cole Tozer. DATED and first published June 17, 2021. Personal Representative /s/ Katherine Hecker. /s/ Celinda Travelstead

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY** In the Matter of the Estate of: GROVER HOYT BAELZ, Deceased. Case No. 2IPB04991 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS. Notice is hereby given that Susan M. Strand has been appointed and has qualified as the personal representative of said estate. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present the same, with proper vouchers, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, as stated below, to the attorney for the personal representative at: Marc D. Perrin, Attorney at Law, 777 High Street, Suite 110, Eugene, OR 97401 or they may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative or the attorney for the personal representative. DATED and first published: 07/01/21. Susan M. Strand, Personal Representative, 86501 Lorane

Highway, Eugene, OR 97405, 541-729-5511. Marc D. Perrin OSB #823663, Attorney for Personal Representative, 777 High Street, Suite 110, Eugene, OR 97401, 541-345-0003

evidence thereof attached, to the personal representative at 34128 El Roble Avenue, Eugene, Oregon 97405. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice to the personal representative at the address stated above for the presentation of claims or such claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by this proceeding may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the attorney for the personal representative. Dated and first published July 1, 2021. Attorney for personal representative: Salvatore Catalano, OSB#16102, Catalano Law P.C., P.O. Box 5026, Eugene, OR 97405

**NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS** Notice is hereby given that Amy Gaudia and Shelley Allen have been appointed co-personal representatives of the Estate of Gilbert Gaudia, deceased, by the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Lane County, Probate File No. 2IPB04781. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby notified to present the same to the said co-personal representatives, at the office of the co-personal representatives' attorney, Andrew L. Kraushaar, 834 Pearl Street, Eugene, OR 97401, within four months from the date of the first publication of this notice or their claims may be barred. Date of first publication of this notice is 06/17/21. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceeding may obtain additional information from the records of the court or from the co-personal representatives, or from the co-personal representatives' attorney, Andrew L. Kraushaar, 834 Pearl Street, Eugene OR 97401; Phone 541-484-1066.

**NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS** NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed and has qualified as the Personal Representative of the Estate of Sandra Joyce Grand, deceased, Lane County Probate No. 2IPB01078. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present their claims, with proper vouchers, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, as stated below, to the Personal Representative at 188 West B Street, Bldg. N, Springfield, Oregon 97477, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this Estate may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the attorney for the Personal Representative. Dated and first published: 07/01/21. Alex E. Gavridis, Personal Representative and Attorney. Leahy Cox, LLP., 188 W. B Street, Bldg. N, Springfield, Oregon 97477, (541) 746-9821

**NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS:** Probate administration proceedings in the Estate of William Frederick Danielson, Deceased, are now pending in the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Lane County, Case No. 2IPB04598, and Roberta Conway has been appointed Personal

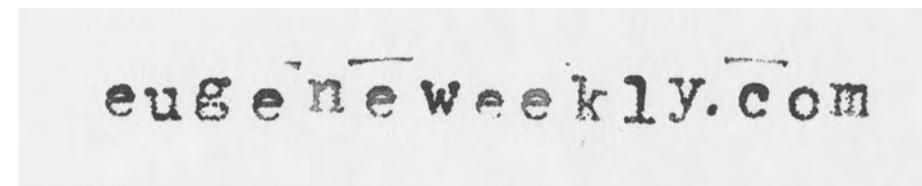
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Representative of the estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present the same, with proper vouchers, to the Personal Representative, c/o Gleaves Swearingen LLP, Attorneys at Law, 975 Oak Street, Suite 800, Eugene, OR 97401, within 4 months from the date of the first publication of this notice or such claims may be barred. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN to all persons whose rights may be affected by the above-entitled proceedings that additional information may be obtained from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative or the attorneys for the Personal Representative. Dated and first published this 24th day of June, 2021.

**NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS:** Probate proceedings in the Estate of Marjorie Eugenia Peckham, Deceased, are now pending in the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Lane County, Case No. 21PBO1957, and Matthew H. Peckham has been appointed Personal Representative of the estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present the same, with proper vouchers, to the Personal Representative, c/o Gleaves Swearingen LLP, Attorneys at Law, 975 Oak Street, Suite 800, Eugene, OR 97401, within 4 months from the date of the first publication of this notice or such claims may be barred. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN to all persons whose rights may be affected by the above-entitled proceedings that additional information may be obtained from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative or the attorneys for the Personal Representative. Dated and first published this 1st day of July, 2021. IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY Juvenile Department in the Matter of MARIAH KAYE WOOD, A Child. Case No. 21JU00738 PUBLISHED SUMMONS TO: Joshua Terry Wood (aka Josh Terry Wood) IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF OREGON: A petition has been filed asking the court to terminate your parental rights to the above-named child for the purpose of placing the child for adoption. YOU ARE REQUIRED TO PERSONALLY APPEAR before the Lane County Juvenile Department, 2727 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Eugene, Oregon 97401, on the 5th day of August, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. for a hearing on the allegations of the petition and to personally appear at any subsequent court-ordered hearing. YOU MUST APPEAR PERSONALLY IN THE COURTROOM ON THE DATE AND AT THE TIME LISTED ABOVE. AN ATTORNEY MAY NOT ATTEND THE HEARING IN YOUR PLACE. THEREFORE, YOU MUST APPEAR EVEN IF YOUR ATTORNEY ALSO APPEARS. This summons is published pursuant to the order of the circuit court judge of the above-entitled court, dated June 25, 2021. The order directs that this summons be published once each week for three consecutive weeks, making three publications in all, in a published newspaper of general circulation in Lane County. Date of first publication: July 1, 2021. Date of last

publication: July 15, 2021. **NOTICE READ THESE PAPERS CAREFULLY** IF YOU DO NOT APPEAR PERSONALLY BEFORE THE COURT OR DO NOT APPEAR AT ANY SUBSEQUENT COURT-ORDERED HEARING, the court may proceed in your absence without further notice and TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS to the above-named child either ON THE DATE SPECIFIED IN THIS SUMMONS OR ON A FUTURE DATE, and may make such orders and take such action as authorized by law. **RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS** YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO BE REPRESENTED BY AN ATTORNEY IN THIS MATTER. If you are currently represented by an attorney, CONTACT YOUR ATTORNEY IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIVING THIS NOTICE. Your previous attorney may not be representing you in this matter. IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO HIRE AN ATTORNEY and you meet the state's financial guidelines, you are entitled to have an attorney appointed for you at state expense. TO REQUEST APPOINTMENT OF AN ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT YOU AT STATE EXPENSE, YOU MUST IMMEDIATELY CONTACT the Lane County Juvenile Department, 2727 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Eugene, Oregon 97401, phone number (541) 682-4754, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. for further information. IF YOU WISH TO HIRE AN ATTORNEY, please retain one as soon as possible and have the attorney present at the above hearing. If you need help finding an attorney, you may call the Oregon State Bar's Lawyer Referral Service at (503) 684-3763 or toll free in

Oregon at (800) 452-7636. IF YOU ARE REPRESENTED BY AN ATTORNEY, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH YOUR ATTORNEY AND TO KEEP YOUR ATTORNEY ADVISED OF YOUR WHEREABOUTS. **PETITIONER'S ATTORNEY** Nicholas R. Balthrop, Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, 975 Oak Street, Suite 200 Eugene, OR 97401, Phone: (541)686-7973. ISSUED this 28th day of June, 2021. Issued by: /s/ Nicholas R. Balthrop #153110, Assistant Attorney General.

#### I SAW YOU

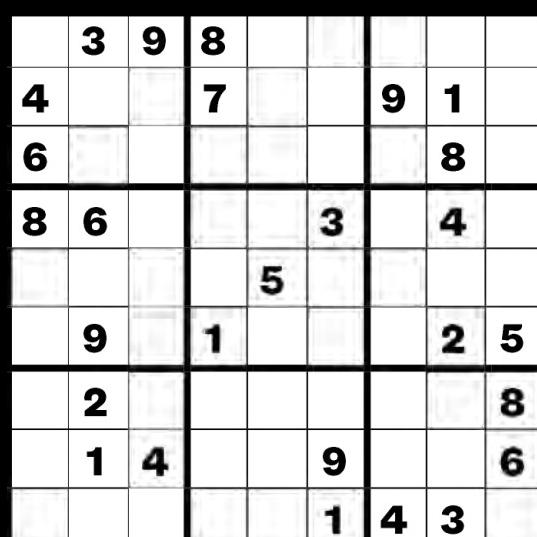
I SAW YOU in front of the post office looking up at the flag. I see that POW MIA flag every time I go there, and I wonder if anyone cares that there has been 19 years of war. So much sacrifice. I feel your heart break from across the parking lot. Then I notice some sociopath is cutting onions close by outside again. I can never find them. If I could find them, I would look at them disapprovingly thru my tears. I cannot remember what my father's voice sounds like no matter how hard I try. I want to burn everything down.

I SAW YOU revitalize your roots, deeply, and now, walk with me. PBDY

SKIP I forgot to give you my phone number - call the EW office - Charlie.

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# SAVAGE LOVE

Queer Quickies  
BY DAN SAVAGE



*I just attended the nauseating wedding of my 30-year-old niece to her boyfriend of several years. Both of them seem as gay as possible but they are diehard religious fanatics. I can list 50 signs these two are gay, and once you point it out to someone who isn't a Bible thumper, they go, "Yeah, that makes so much sense." The bride's father, who was also the minister, praised them for not moving in together before the wedding — another sign. I personally find hetero abstinence until age 30 to be highly suspicious. In fact, refraining from heterosexual intercourse until that age only seems realistic if someone is gay or asexual. Our extended families are all religious blowhards, and we're the only queer-friendly outlet in the family. I want badly to let the newlyweds know it's OK to question the complexities of sexuality and that we're here to support them. I fear they'll live for decades in awkwardness because my niece's minister father is beyond judgmental and insists love (and marriage) can only exist between one MAN and one WOMAN. Is there any tactful way to ask someone if they're gay? Or to at least offer support if they are closeted? How do we let them know our little corner of the family will love and support them? I wish someone had asked me when I was trying to figure it out.*

— Union Not Concealing LGBTQ Energy

Why would you go to that wedding when it's still possible to plead a pandemic? And avoid having to sit in a room full of unpleasant people and their equally unpleasant friends? Both real and imaginary? A group of people who are also highly likely to be unvaccinated?

Anyway, UNCLE, if you're out to the family about being queer and/or being queer-friendly — it's unclear what you ultimately figured out about yourself — your work here is done. Your niece knows queer people exist because you exist; she knows queer people live openly because you live openly. So she knows she has options and she knows she has at least one family member she can turn to. Now if you were to take the next step — a radical step — and actually call your niece on the phone and asking her if she's queer... if you were to list all the traits you regard as proof both she and her husband are queer... it's possible she might suddenly come out. Unlikely, UNCLE, but possible. But it's almost certain you would be scratched from the guest list for all future family events — whether or not your niece comes out — which seriously tips the scales in favor of making that call.

*Recently my nephew informed the whole family that he is gay. We all said supportive things and I told him about a "coming out" series of movies (Boys Life) and he appreciated the gesture. Now I come to the REAL reason for my writing to you. Though I enjoy the company of women — I am a man — my secret is that I find pleasure in sucking the pecs of muscular males. In my college days, I made several male students and professors QUITE happy and I got pleasure from these encounters as well. Occasionally, when the opportunity presented itself, I came while being dominated by a muscular man with big nips and it was heaven. My family knows nothing about this "other side" of me. I find myself envying my nephew's openness. Perhaps a naive question, Mr. Savage, but are there others out there like me?*

— Pensively Examining Complex Sexuality

P.S. Maybe one day I can take the same brave step my nephew has.

Yes, PECS, there are other bi guys out there. Some are into muscular pecs (although we just call them tits now), some keep this side of themselves from their spouses and families (which exacerbates bisexual invisibility and poor mental health outcomes among bisexuals), and some really get off on being dominated (because, like, that shit is hot). So you are definitely not alone.

P.S. Today could be the day.

*Just wanted to say thanks for the push I needed to come out as bisexual to my family. I told my parents a couple weeks ago and just told my sisters. Surprise response? My oldest sister is also bisexual. Not the response I was expecting, but it was a moment of recognition for both of us. I'm 31 years old and for years I convinced myself that labels weren't important, but I feel like a huge weight was lifted off me. THIS is who I am and it IS important. Thanks for talking about bisexual visibility for a long time. For some reason it took that repetition for me to feel like my bisexuality mattered and that coming out is important for me and the whole LGBTQ+ community.*

— Proudly Unmasking Silenced Heart

Welcome out, PUSH, and how cool to learn you have — that you've always had — a queer sister!

*I'm a man. As a teenager I had crushes on women but I was usually too shy to do anything about it. I had a girlfriend for two years and I enjoyed her romantically and sexually. After the relationship ended — and after struggling to find women that were attracted to me — I decided to explore my sexuality. This is when I discovered trans women and became very confused. I am very aroused by them, even more than to cis women, and this is very confusing to me because they were women with very feminine appearances but their genitals were still masculine. At first I thought this was just some passing kink, but then I decided to experiment with trans sex workers. I got very aroused and enjoyed these encounters. Does this make me gay? I have never felt anything towards a cis or trans man and can't picture myself doing anything with one. I have always identified as straight but this makes me think the label doesn't fit. Also, I haven't told anyone else, but my friends think trans women are men and doing anything with them sexually is gay. Are they right?*

— Complications Implicating Straightness

Your friends are wrong. You're a straight guy who likes dick — dick, not dudes. And luckily for you, CIS, there are plenty of dicks out there that aren't attached to dudes. While it might feel like a complicated and complicating way to be a straight guy, CIS, the straight label still applies.

*"LGBT" patterns are neurotic, preventable and treatable. The Left has been lying about this for decades. Friskiness is one thing, perversion is another. Early-life problems in parental bonding are the root of most conditions of sexual irregularity.*

— Sharon Offers An Opposing View

Lemme guess, Sharon-Rhymes-With-Karen: many, many years ago you caught your husband with a cock in his mouth — the same husband who was never big on initiating sex (at least with you) — and somehow your husband managed to convince you it was just one of those things, just one of those frisky things, a trip to the moon on cocksucker wings, just one of those things. I'm here to tell you there wasn't just one. Your husband has sucked more cock than you know, SOAOV, and less cock than he'd like. And for the record: LGBT describes people, not patterns, and everything you claim — that we're neurotic, that we can be cured, that we failed to bond with one parent or bonded too much with another — was debunked decades ago. I would urge you to do a little reading, but your time might be better spent checking in on your husband. Where is he right now?

# River Valley Remedies

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